

## PROBATION SYSTEM IN U. S. COURTS URGED

**Pleas to That End Are Made  
Before the House Judiciary  
Committee.**

WASHINGTON, May 13.—Urgent pleas for the establishment of a probation sys-

te today by representatives of the National Probation Association and several State organizations. A bill to that end was introduced in the House by Representative Hayden and in the Senate by Senator Owen.

In a formal statement made before the Senate, Charles L. Chute, secretary of the New York Probation Commission and of the National Association, said that the bill would provide for the reformation of many offenders and for the reduction of costs. "The bill," he said, "is given as the purpose to be achieved by the proposed legislation."

Illustrations were drawn from the operation of the probation laws in New York, Massachusetts and other States. There is no probation system in United States courts, although the plan has been adopted by many courts.

"The application of probation to youthful and early offenders," said Mr. Chute, "avoids bringing them into contact with hardened criminals, and with penal institutions and association with older offenders, which tends to develop them into hardened criminals rather than into reformed men."

"Probation has decided economic advantages. The average cost of maintain-

ing of a prisoner at the Atlanta penitentiary, the State of New York during the year 1914 shows that the average per capita cost for maintenance in the State prison was \$21.94. It was estimated that the cost of placing an offender in charge of a salaried probation officer for one year in New York State was \$21.94.

Mr. Hute added that in Massachusetts, where he had been the chief probation system, 25,150 persons, chiefly adults, were placed on probation. In New York in 1915 18,708 persons, 12,586 of whom were males, were placed on probation. Other speakers heard by the committee were Frank K. Wade of the New York Probation Commission, Albert J. Sargent, chief probation officer of the New York Municipal Court, Herbert Parsons, secretary of the Massachusetts Commission and James L. Ramsey, chief probation officer of the Middlesex county, Massachusetts.

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